

STORY 74.

A MUSLIM PRINCE REFUSED THE CROWN BECAUSE
HIS FATHER HAD FILLED THE TREASURY
WITH MONEY GOT UNLAWFULLY.

NASIR-UL-DIN BILLAH a Caliph of Baghdad was a very greedy and unscrupulous man. He loved money and collected it not caring whether the means he employed were fair or foul. Whenever a rich man died he took possession of all that he had left and did not allow the heirs to receive any part of the inheritance. This Caliph wanted to appoint his son Alzahir Billah as his heir-apparent by publicly placing the crown on his head. But the prince was a God-fearing Muslim; so he declined the honour remarking that as the treasury contained money got by questionable means his conscience did not allow him to take charge of it.

This outspokenness excited the anger of the Caliph, and he threw his son into prison, who did not get his freedom until his father departed from this world. At last when he was fifty-two years old he was released from prison. As soon as he ascended the throne he caused a diligent search to be made for those whom the greed of his father had despoiled, and restored to them their dues. He also abolished, all the taxes not sanctioned by Islam.

STORY 75.

THE QUAZI REFUSED TO ACCEPT EVIDENCE IN
FAVOUR OF THE CALIPH.

ABU HAZIM was Quazi at Baghdad. Once the reigning Caliph sent him the following message: "Such and such a person owes me some money. Please consider my claim and help me to recover my dues." The Quazi sent back the following reply. "You yourself have placed upon my shoulders the burden of administering the law. You can realize my responsibilities, and yet you want me to grant you the decree without hearing the evidence, required by the law. Please excuse me but I must ask you to produce your witnesses."

On the receipt of this note the Caliph was constrained to name two well-known persons of position as his witnesses. But the Quazi again wrote. "It is all very well that you regard these persons as honourable men. But as long as I have not tested their position and found them to be eligible for evidence according to the canons of the law I cannot accept their evidence."

Now when the witnesses named by the Caliph came to know that they were going to be subjected to a searching cross-examination, they refused to appear before the Quazi, and the case went against the Caliph.

This is justice indeed!